(c) the present status in each case, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the Central Vigilance Commision (CVC), it has recommended major penalty proceedings/ sanction for prosecution against 208 top-level officers (Joint Secretary and above) in the Central Government/General Managers in Public Sector Banks and up to two levels below Board level in the case of Central PSUs during the last two years *i.e.* from July 2004 to June, 2006.

(c) State-wise information is not maintained by the CVC.

Grant-in-aid to Assam

2185. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider hundred per cent Grant-in-Aid to Assam State considering the Annual onslaught of heavy rain followed by devastating flood in addition to its border area problems;

(b) whether Government would declare the construction of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road bridge as National Project and release fund to complete it timely; and

(c) whether Government would include Tihu-Doomni-Dubankhata Road under Barpeta District and Mangaldai-Bhutiachang-Samrang Road under Darrang and Udalguri District which are Indo-Bhutan Roads in Assam under Eleventh Five Year Plan considering their importance from Defence strategy points of view including internal security in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Various aspects of Bogibeel Rail-cum-Road Bridge as a national project are under consideration.

(c) Improvement of Tihu Doomni Road leading to Indo-Bhutan foot hills from 7th to 25 Km. in Baska district is under progress. The work on Mangaldoi Bhutiachung Road has already been completed. Construction of some RCC bridges are however under progress.

National Knowledge Commission

2186. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stand of National Knowledge Commission on extension of

reservation in Central Educational Institutions;

(b) whether the Commission has submitted any report to Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) National Knowledge Commission issued the following statement on reservation in Central Educational Institutions, through a press release, at Bangalore on 8th May, 2006:—

"The National Knowledge Commission firmly believes that a knowledge society must be a socially inclusive society, and this social inclusion must be reflected in the educational institutions, Historically we have used the instrument of reservations to achieve this goal. For central institutions this reservation is currently at 22.5% for SCs/STs. This is a historic opportunity to craft more effective policies to make educational institutions more socially inclusive. But how we go about doing this in a way that is compatible with the goals of a knowledge society is a difficult task and requires more social debate and careful thought. On the issue of proposed new measures, there is a difference of opinion within the Commission. Six of the eight Members feel that until such time as we have explored new and more effective avenues of affirmative action, the *status quo* should be maintained and reservations should not be extended as proposed. Two Members disagree with the above view: Dr. Jayati Ghosh supports the extension of reservations, and Dr. P.M. Bhargava supports the extension of reservations, subject to certain conditions."

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Package for farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2187. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have agreed on Rs. 15,000 crore as special package for the 'distressed farmers' in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) in what manner the farmers would get benefits from this financial assistance;

(d) to what extent it would help to improve the plight of distress farmers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the details thereof?